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## **SPITZER RANCH Professional Cattlemen's Bull Development Program Progress Report**

The Spitzers currently have thirty three bulls gaining an average of 3.43 pounds per day through the first 28 days of their Bull Development Program for 2014-15. And that average daily gain (ADG) is for bulls straight off the cow with no warm-up period, no creep feed and grazing crabgrass pastures supplemented with a commodity feed mix of soy hulls and corn gluten feed. Performance of these calves is right on target as they are not pushed for maximum gain but targeted for an overall ADG of about 3.25 pounds over the 168-Day forage based development program. The result will be sound, athletic bulls ready for a long productive life in the breeding pasture.

These calves are the product of a program with thirty two years of consistent selection pressure for low birth weight, high growth **CURVE BENDER** genetics. Seventy nine percent of these bulls have BW EPDs less than the Brangus breed average while at the same time 94% have YW EPDs greater than Brangus breed average. Additionally, if you need to breed heifers, over one half of these calves have BW EPDs and birth weights earning them the right to be classed as Calving Ease Bulls. While there are almost no Brangus bulls that sire calves with any calving difficulties in mature cows, those bulls that earn the "calving ease flag" in the Spitzer Ranch program all but guarantee first-calf-females a really easy time at calving.

While the Spitzers have a well earned reputation for producing those sought after curve bender bulls; they certainly cannot be accused of ignoring the rest of the production picture. Need bulls to sire cows that milk and that have high maternal value? Ninety seven percent of these bulls have Milk EPDs and Total Maternal EPDs higher than Brangus breed average and everyone knows the excellent reputation Brangus cows have earned as mothers. Need bulls to

sire calves with improved carcass quality? Two thirds of these bulls have the genetics to sire calves with rib eye areas larger than Brangus breed average and 70% have percent intramuscular fat (marbling) EPDs higher than Brangus breed average.

In short, if you need to get bulls into your cow herd that have the genetic lead time to sire calves with **lower birth weights** while at the same time **increasing growth** to weaning and yearling ages; if you need to produce replacement females with **more milk** and **better maternal ability**; if you need to get **more muscle** and produce those reputation calves with a **greater percentage of choice** grading carcasses; then you need to give these bulls serious consideration for your next herd sire. Brangus crossbred cows are just the ticket to increased heterosis and all the advantages hybrid vigor brings to your cow herd. This set of bulls gives you the opportunity to pick through a genetic selection program that compliments the heterosis that cannot be ignored if your desire is increased profitability.

Please consider attending the **SPITZER RANCH PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BULL SALE** set for **Saturday, February 28, 2015**. The Spitzers will publish both SUMMER 2014 and WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTERS which will report the progress of these bulls all the way through their 168-Day development program. Also visit the WEB [at www.srbulls.com](http://www.srbulls.com) where you can study their philosophy, view catalogs from previous years Bull Sales and inspect the completeness of data they always provide their customers. Evaluating catalogs from earlier sales will explain how complete their data collection program has become and how it can assist you with your bull selection decisions. If you wish to be added to their mailing list for Newsletters and a Bull Sale Catalog call 864/972-9140, write SPITZER RANCH, 1511 HWY 59, Fair Play, SC, 29643 or send an email note to [spitzeranch@mindspring.com](mailto:spitzeranch@mindspring.com). You might additionally enjoy joining almost 1200 followers of their QUOTE OF THE WEEK on Facebook.

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